

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

MINUTES

DECEMBER 14, 2000
EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM
Rockville, Maryland

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Gordon A. Aoyagi, Chairman
Fernando Bren
Tom Carr
Robert L. Freeman
Len Marco
Anita Powell
Paul Sterling, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Neil Shorb, Staff Director
George Giebel, Program Manager
Annette Cheng, Office Services Coordinator
Richard Melnick, OCA

OTHERS PRESENT:

President Eric Bernard, Rockville VFD
Marcine Goodloe, MCVFRA
Assistant Chief Randy Wheeler, DFRS
Captain Ed Radcliffe, DFRS
Chief David Dwyer, DVFRS
William Wells
Chief James Stanton, Kensington VFD
Steven Kurtz, Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD
President Russell Hartung, Hillandale VFD

Chief Roger Strock, DFRS
Assistant Chief Roger McGary, DFRS
Eileen Queenin, DFRS
Chief Alan Hinde, Rockville VFD
Jo and Don Phillips, Kensington VFD
Cheryl Reed, MCFRS
Darlene Flynn, MCFRS
Luella Mast, MC League of Women Voters
President Robert Kidd, Chevy Chase FD

100 - CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission was called to order by Chairman Aoyagi at 7:20 p.m. in the Lobby Auditorium of the Executive Office Building in Rockville, Maryland.

101- Report of the Executive Session of November 9, 2000

Fire Administrator Aoyagi announced that per Maryland State Government Article § 10-508(a)(1), the Commission held a closed session on November 9, 2000, at 9:03 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Executive Office Building, Rockville, Maryland. In attendance were Fire Administrator Aoyagi and Commissioners Bren, Carr, Freeman, Powell, and Sterling; Mr. Shorb, and Mrs. Cheng of the Commission staff. The motion to adjourn to a closed session was made by Commissioner Carr, seconded by Commissioner Freeman and passed. One personnel matter was discussed.

102- Comments – the Fire and Rescue Commissioners

Commissioner Marco reported on a Washington Post column by Bob Levey concerning Montgomery County fire apparatus parking in fire lanes and No Parking Zones in front of shopping center stores, causing disruption to the public. Fire Administrator Aoyagi requested that Chief Strock and Chief Dwyer follow up on this issue as needed.

Commissioner Bren reported that he attended the ceremony at Station 16 on November 17, 2000 to donate fire and rescue equipment to the city of Lima, Peru. Representatives from Peru thanked the MCFRS for their generosity for donating their used and otherwise to be disposed of fire equipment to their country. Fire Administrator thanked President Bernard and FF3 Alfaro for their tremendous effort in coordinating this project.

103- Report of the Chairman

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that Commissioner Ogens had an excused absence for tonight's meeting. He also advised that he will be out of town the week of January 10 to 18, 2001. Vice-Chair Ogens will chair the January FRC meeting.

- Introduction of the MCFRS Internal Affairs Officer

Fire Administrator Aoyagi introduced Kevin Sanzenbacher as the new Internal Affairs Officer for the MCFRS. Mr. Sanzenbacher will assume his new position December 18, 2000.

- Report of Resource Group Meeting – November 27, 2000

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that members of the Resource Group will meet every two months to discuss issues that are before the MCFRS. At the November 27, 2000 meeting, the Resource Group discussed the joint letter signed by Chairman White of the Fire Board and President Sparks of the IAFF Local 1664. Fire Administrator expressed his appreciation for the leadership that is being displayed by the IAFF and the Fire Board on this matter. He noted that the group agreed to establish two joint committees – a steering group for climate assessment and an advisory committee for joint training at the station level.

- IECS Regulation – Interpretation from the Office of the County Attorney

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that at the November FRC meeting, the Commission requested a legal opinion regarding Section 21-8(a), as to whether the Commission could adopt the Integrated Emergency Command Structure (IECS) with a majority vote of the Commission.

The County Attorney has rendered an opinion indicating that the Commission may adopt the IECS regulation by a majority vote.

The legal opinion was provided as a handout to the Commissioners at tonight's meeting.

104- Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2000 and November 9, 2000 Meetings

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2000, meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Bren and PASSED unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2000, meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.

200- CONSENT CALENDAR

300- FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

301- Operations

Commissioner Sterling reported that the Operations Committee met on November 29, 2000. The Committee focused mainly on discussing the revision of the Integrated Emergency Command Structure Regulation. Other items discussed were: METRO Subcommittee report; a proposal to initiate vehicle extrication service at Silver Spring VFD; a request to establish a search and rescue procedure for structure fires; establishing M219 at Kensington VFD; establishing M88 (part-time) at GWGVFD; recommended additions to dispatch call types; and opposite lane ambulance dispatch for auto fires on Interstates 495 and 270.

Commissioner Sterling advised that the discussion on the policy for the Acquisition of Fire and Rescue Vehicles with Non-Tax Funds and the Standards Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire and Rescue Service Vehicles was deferred to the January Operations Committee meeting.

302- Human Resources, Safety and Training

Commissioner Powell reported that the Committee met on December 4, 2000. Items discussed were: Updates on Medical Standards, Safety, Wellness Initiative and Driver Training. District Chief Clemens gave a presentation on the Boat Operations Course Guidelines.

Commissioner Carr reported that he had received the report on Medical Standards for Volunteer EMS Only from the consultant, MEDTOX. The County's OMS is reviewing the application of that report.

Commissioner Marco reported that the System Safety Committee continues to look at safety issues such as reflective clothing, facial and eye protection. He also reported that two treadmills are being placed at the PSTA for evaluation during the month of December. He encouraged everyone who uses the treadmill to fill out an evaluation form after testing these two units.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that the MCFRS will host a Suicide Summit on February 24, 2001 to solicit some national speakers in assisting the MCFRS with its Critical Incident Stress Management Program. Commissioner Carr advised that an information bulletin will be distributed to all MCFRS personnel next week regarding the critical incident defusing team in place at this time and the opportunity for interested members to participate in training for the program.

303- Finance, Technology and Planning

Commissioner Bren reported that the FTP Committee met on November 16, 2000. The Finance Subcommittee reported that the draft report on "Acquisition of Fire and Rescue Vehicles with Non-tax Funds" was distributed to the field for comments. The Planning Subcommittee continues to meet with various planning groups to discuss site selection for future fire stations. The North Potomac Citizens Association has requested that the construction of the fire station in the vicinity of University of Maryland – Shady Grove Campus be expedited. The Apparatus/Facilities Subcommittee is working on a number of task reports.

Commissioner Bren reported that the Committee is awaiting the final report on the Technology Strategy Plan for the MCFRS.

400- BUSINESS ITEMS

401- Goals of the MCFRS

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to adopt Resolution FY 10-01, which establishes the MCFRS annual goals and associated objectives for the MCFRS. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Bren and PASSED unanimously.

402- MCFRS FY02 Operating Budget Submission

Fire Administrator Aoyagi gave a presentation on the MCFRS FY02 Operating Budget Submission. Handouts were distributed.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Bren to delegate to Commissioner Marco, Chairman of the FTP Finance Subcommittee, to prepare comments to the County Executive Office regarding the Fire Administrator's proposed FY02 Operating Budget for the MCFRS. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Freeman and PASSED unanimously.

403- Request to Upgrade A219 – Kensington VFD

404- Request to Upgrade A88 – Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD

405- Approval of Boat Operations Course Guidelines

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Freeman to approve the requests to upgrade A219 – Kensington VFD, A88 – Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD, and the Boat Operations Course Guidelines as recommended by staff. The implementation date for A88 and A219 is as soon as possible. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.

500- FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES REPORTS

501- DVFRS Chief

Chief Dwyer reported that he attended the ceremony at Station 16 on November 17 at which representatives from Lima, Peru thanked MCFRS for donating \$250,000 worth of fire equipment to their country. Chief Dwyer thanked President Bernard of the Rockville VFD and FF3 Alfaro for their tremendous effort in coordinating this project.

Chief Dwyer reminded everyone to submit the awardees' nomination list for the Chamber of Commerce Awards.

502- DFRS Chief

Chief Strock reported that Recruit Class 18 will graduate on January 5, 2001. He wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

503- Report of the Fire Board

Vice-Chair Bernard thanked the Commission for its support for donating fire equipment to Lima, Peru. He expressed his recognition for the joint letter signed by the Fire Board and Local 1664. He reported that tonight's conference with the Maryland State Open Meeting Compliance Board will help clarify the rules, standards, and requirements for the MCFRS to follow with regard to Open Meetings. Vice-Chair Bernard wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

504- Report of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association

Dr. Wilson inquired about when death announcements will be broadcasted again on Channel 2. He also inquired about the accrued interest earned from Senator Amoss Funds.

505- Report of the Montgomery County Career Fire/Rescue Officers Association

There was no report.

506- Report of the Montgomery Career Firefighters

There was no report.

FRC Meeting
December 14, 2000

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to adjourn the meeting. MOTION
SECONDED by Commissioner Freeman and PASSED unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon A. Aoyagi
Fire Administrator